

Please ask for: **Caroline Jackson**

Our Ref:

Your Ref:

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Date: **25<sup>th</sup> September 2008**

Dear Parent/Carer

### **INTRODUCTION OF CASHLESS CATERING SYSTEM FOR SECONDARY SCHOOL PUPILS**

Scottish Borders Council continues to be committed to improving both quality and service provided to students throughout our schools. As part of this commitment we wish to further improve the catering service facility and have taken the decision to introduce Cashless Catering into all of our secondary schools over the next 6 months.

This is an exciting new way of paying for school meals with many advantages and benefits. In addition to making the service quicker for pupils and reducing the need to find money on a daily basis it also allows parents and carers to ensure that money intended for school meals is being used for that purpose. Crediting of accounts can be done by pupils loading cash directly through loaders situated within the school, payment by cheque to the Catering Manager and in the near future a facility to credit accounts through the internet will be made available.

A further major advantage of the system is that pupils who are entitled to free school meals will use exactly the same card which will automatically be credited on a daily basis and allow them to use the catering service in the same way as all other pupils.

In addition pupils will not have to carry or use a number of cards as we are combining cashless catering with the Young Scot card. The Dialogue Youth Team has already visited all schools to provide pupils with the opportunity to apply for this card. If your child does not currently have a Young Scot card, application forms will be available in the schools library.

Further information and detail regarding the processes for the new Cashless Catering system will be made available through an information leaflet and you are also invited to attend a briefing session at the Jedburgh Grammar School on the **8<sup>th</sup> October 2008 at 6.15pm** where more information will be provided. During the briefing session you will also be given the opportunity to sample and taste typical dishes on offer during a lunch service.

The new system will go live in Jedburgh Grammar on **27<sup>th</sup> October 2008**. To ensure that the implementation goes smoothly a single cash till will be made available for the first week for pupils who do not have a Young Scot Card and to allow time for pupils to adjust to crediting their accounts. It is very important that your child has a Young Scot card as this will be the only way that they will be able to pay for their food purchases.

Thank you for your help in supporting this innovative development that is there for the benefit and use of young people in the Scottish Borders.

Yours sincerely

**CAROLINE JACKSON**  
FACILITIES & CONTRACTS MANAGER